

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 H-03 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

/027 W

-----074104 221426Z /47

O 221252Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5760

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

CHUSMTM DHAHRAH IMMEDIATE

USMTM RIYADH

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4/7-SA

SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SANA 4151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (SIKES, ROBERT AND FLYNT, JOHN), MASS, YE, US

SUBJ: CODEL SIKES AND FLYNT

BEGIN SUMMARY: YAR PRESIDENT HAS RECEIVED CODEL SIKES AND FLYNT WITH LAVISH SHOW OF HOSPITALITY RATHER THAN REPETITION OF EARLIER AND UNREASONABLE DEMANDS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. CODEL SUCCEEDED SO COMPLETELY IN CONVEYING IMPRESSION OF US SUPPORT FOR YAR THAT SPECIAL EMISSARY OR PRESIDENTIAL LETTER MAY NOT BE NECESSARY AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. EVIDENCE HAS BEEN PILING UP FOR LAST THREE DAYS THAT SAUDIS HERE AND IN KINGDOM HAVE RUN HARD WITH IDEA THAT CODEL SIKES AND FLYNT MIGHT BE WAY FOR YEMENIS TO BACK OFF GRACEFULLY FROM SOME OF THEIR EARLIER DEMANDS. YEMENIS EARLY ON AGREED TO MAKE CODEL GUESTS OF REPUBLIC AND YESTERDAY INFORMED CHARGE THAT PRESIDENT WOULD RECEIVE DELEGATION. BY TIME OF ARRIVAL, YEMENIS HAD DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, COMMANDER OF KEY ARMORED UNIT IN SANA AND NOTABLE YEMENI HISTORIAN WHO MEMBER OF SECRET

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PARLIAMENT AT AIRPORT AS RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

2. JUST PRIOR TO PRESIDENTIAL MEETING ON 21 AUGUST AT 11:00 P.M., SAUDI REPRESENTATIVE ALI MUSALLIM CAME BY CHARGE'S HOUSE TO REPORT ON RESULTS OF STILL ANOTHER MEETING HE HAD HAD WITH YAR PRESIDENT ALI ABDALLAH SALIH. HE SAID VENUE HAD BEEN CHANGED FROM MILITARY

HEADQUARTERS TO REPUBLICAN PALACE AND FOREIGN MINISTER ASN AJ WOULD ATTEND TO TRANSLATE. PURPOSE CLEARLY WAS TO LAY NEW BASIS FOR US-YEMENI DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT, FOR MOMENT, GETTING INTO DETAILS OF MILITARY PROGRAM. MUSALLIM SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED.

3. MUSALLIM'S ADVICE FITTED NICELY WITH STRATEGY CODEL HAD ADOPTED AT EMBASSY SUGGESTION. CONGRESSMEN SIKES AND FLYNT UNDERTOOK TO EXPRESS US POLITICAL INTERESTS IN YEMEN AND SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS IN LINE WITH MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT CARTER. THEY PROPOSED TO CARRY BACK TO US HIS VIEWS ABOUT THREAT AND HIS MILITARY AND ECONOMIC NEEDS.

4. IN MEETING, WHICH DEP PRIME MIN JUNAYD ARRIVED TO ATTEND, CONGRESSMEN SPOKE WITH WARMTH AND SINCERITY AND FORCE THAT BORN OF PARLIAMENTARY RATHER THAN DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE. ALI ABDALLAH SALIH WAS CLEARLY IMPRESSED. FOR ONCE HE SHOWED NONE OF HIS CHARACTERISTIC IMPATIENCE AND INTENSITY BUT INSTEAD LISTENED AND RESPONDED WITH COMPLETE ATTENTION AND BROAD SMILES. SIKES AND FLYNT BY TURNS EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS OF IMPORTANCE THAT YEMEN NOT RPT NOT STAND ALONE. THEY SAID COOPERATION BENEFITED ALL, INCLUDING US, AND REITERATED THEIR HOPES THAT SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO HELP YEMEN QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY. NEITHER CONGRESS-

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MAN, HOWEVER, MADE ANY COMMITMENT WHATSOEVER TO ANY PARTICULAR PROGRAM.

5. ALI ABDALLAH SALIH ASKED JUNAYD, WHO OF COURSE IS PRESENTLY ACTING PRIME MINISTER, TO OUTLINE SOME WAYS IN WHICH US MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN YEMENI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. JUNAYD SAID HE LOOKED FOR "CRASH PROGRAM" WHICH WOULD HELP YEMENIS EXPLOIT EXISTING MOMENTUM OF THEIR 5 YEAR PLAN AND SUGGESTED SPECIFICALLY US FINANCING OF FEASIBILITY AND ENGINEERING PLANNING FOR LARGE SCALE PROJECTS PLUS LIMITED CAPITAL PARTICIPATION IN PROJECTS TO ALLOW YEMENIS TO RAISE THE REST FROM OTHER SOURCES WITH GREATER EASE. HE ALSO ASKED USG TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO INVOLVE PETROLEUM AND MINING COMPANIES IN WORK IN YEMEN. THIRDLY, HE HOPED US WOULD ENCOURAGE PRIVATE BUSINESSES TO INVEST WITH YEMENIS IN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WHICH HE NOTED WAS CHARACTERIZED BY LIBERAL CONCESSIONS AND STRICT PROTECTIONS FOR FOREIGN COMPANIES. JUNAYD ASKED, FOURTH, FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP TRAIN YEMENIS AND LAST FOR TITLE I FOOD PROGRAM. CHARGE NOTED US ALREADY AT WORK IN MANY OF THESE AREAS AND INVITED PRESIDENT ALI ABDALLAH SALIH TO VISIT AID OFFICES

IN SANA FOR BRIEFING ON OUR PROGRAM. PRESIDENT ACCEPTED.

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4/7-SA

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6. AT END OF MEETING, AFTER ABOUT 45 MINUTES, CHARGE
NOTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NEW STATE CABLE ASKING
HIM TO REITERATE TO YEMENI FRIENDS THAT LIST WHICH THEY
HAD SUBMITTED OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT WAS UNDER CONSIDERA-
TION IN WASHINGTON. CHARGE SAID HE QUITE FRANKLY
DOUBTED THAT EVERYTHING OR EVEN MOST OF THAT LIST WOULD
BE PROVIDED, BUT US WAS VERY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING
PHASED PROGRAM WHICH WOULD INCREASE YEMENI DEFENSIVE
CAPABILITIES AND PROVIDE AT EVERY STAGE OF WAY
ASSURANCES TO BOTH SIDES THAT EQUIPMENT COULD BE EFFEC-
TIVELY USED. HE SAID US ALSO PREPARED TO CREATE
MILITARY PRESENCE HERE TO HELP WITH TRAINING AND INTRO-
DUCTION OF NEW EQUIPMENT. ALI ABDALLAH RESPONDED BY
SAYING HE WOULD WELCOME US INDICATIONS OF WHAT ITEMS,
FROM THE LIST, MIGHT COME IN THE FIRST STAGE, THE
SECOND AND LATER STAGES. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS
INTERESTED IN SEEING US EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING TEAMS
ARRIVE IN YEMEN. CHARGE LET THE MATTER STAND AT THIS.

COMMENT: REASSURANCES THAT BOB SIKES AND JACK
FLYNT PROVIDED ALI ABDALLAH SALIH WERE ALL YAR PRESI-
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DENT MIGHT WELL HAVE HOPED FOR. I WANT TO RECORD DEBT I FEEL TO SKILL AND SYMPATHY OF CONGRESSMEN SIKES AND FLYNT IN HELPING THIS MISSION AND OUR YEMENI FRIENDS REESTABLISH A DIALOGUE ON A REASONABLE BASIS. MEETING WAS CLEARLY INTENDED BY SALIH NOT TO ENTER INTO ANY DETAILED DISCUSSION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT BUT TO SET A NEW TONE FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS AFTER MEETING WITH CATHEY-KABANI DELEGATION. I LEFT IT AT THAT, NOT PUSHING QUESTIONS ABOUT IMPACT PACKAGE. SALIH REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES IN GRACIOUS WAY TO EARLIER MILITARY DELEGATION, LEAVING IT TO US TO DRAW CONCLUSION THAT ANY IDEAS OF YAR "REJECTION" OR UNREASONABLY HIGH DEMANDS WERE PROBABLY MATTER OF MISUNDERSTANDING ON OUR PART. LINKED TO HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO GET INTO DETAILS WAS APPARENT DESIRE TO SHOW FRIENDS FROM US THAT STRUGGLE WITH SOUTH HAD ECONOMIC DIMENSION, AS WELL AS MILITARY ONE. IN MY OPINION, MEETING SUCCEEDED COMPLETELY FROM POINT OF VIEW OF BOTH SIDES, SO MUCH SO THAT I AM SKEPTICAL THAT PRIVATE VISIT OF AMBASSADOR WEST TO YEMEN NEED BE ELEVATED TO OFFICIAL MISSION BEARING, PERHAPS, PRESIDENTIAL LETTER. FROM VANTAGE OF SANA, BELIEVE THIS IS ARROW WE MAY MORE USEFULLY WANT TO DRAW FROM OUR QUIVER AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE. HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR WEST VISIT STILL STRIKES ME AS HIGHLY USEFUL ON PERSONAL LEVEL -- TO ALLOW PRIVATE TALKS WITH CIVILIAN OFFICIALS AND SOME FIRSTHAND LOOKS AT THE COUNTRYSIDE. SAUDIS, ACCORDING TO ALI MUSALLIM, WANT AND EXPECT AMBASSADOR WEST TO COME SOON. SO, AS CONGRESSMAN SIKES PUT IT, "THE DOOR IS OPEN." THE QUESTION IS NOW WHETHER WE CAN AND WANT TO WALK THROUGH. SIKES AND FLYNT BELIEVE WE SHOULD.

7. SIKES AND FLYNT HAVE SEEN AND APPROVED.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: OREP, MASS, YE, US, (SIKES, ROBERT), (FLYNT, JOHN)
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